(c) For the overall development of handloom sector in Gujarat, assistance has also been given under the following schemes:

Welfare Schemes

(i) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme
(ii) Health Package Scheme
(iii) Thrift Fund Scheme
(iv) New Insurance Scheme

Developmental Schemes

(i) Market Development Assistance Scheme
(ii) Publicity & Exhibition Scheme
(iii) Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme
(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme
(v) Margin Money for Destitute Weavers

Besides, a sum of Rs. 4.25 crore has also been released to Government of Gujarat for rehabilitation of the handloom weavers affected by earthquake in the districts of Kutch, Bhuj, Surendernagar, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Banaskanta.

Further, under the workshed-cum-housing scheme for handloom weavers, a sum of Rs. 4.60 crore has been sanctioned for construction of rural & urban workshed-cum-houses of the earthquake affected weavers of Gujarat State. Out of this sanctioned amount, a sum of Rs. 2.30 crore has already been released as the 1st instalment.

Increasing import duty on cotton

1900. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that off-take of cotton in the domestic market is coming down gradually due to imports;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry will think of increasing the import duty from the present rate of 10 per cent to 25 per cent so as to discourage cotton imports into the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any representation from the Government of Andhra

Pradesh has been received in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action that has been contemplated on such request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Production and consumption of cotton during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 cotton seasons (October-September) are as under:

(In lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (CAB estimates)
Production	156.00	140.00	154.50
Import	22.01	22.00	20.00
Consumption	173.36	173.03	176.00

Source: Cotton Advisory Board (CAB)

(b) to (e) Requests were received to increase duty on import of cotton. After taking into account the interests of the all concerned and the prevailing difference between the domestic and international prices, government hiked the customs duty on import of cotton from 5% to 10% with effect from 09.01.2002

Closure of Textile Mills in Handloom and Powerloom Sector in T.N.

1901. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any textile mills, in handloom and powerloom sectors have been closed down during the last five years in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken to reopen such mills?